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Draft report

Addendum

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Programme questions: proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (item 3 (b))

Programme 18
Economic and social development in Western Asia

1. At its 25th meeting, on 26 June 2000, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 18 (Economic and social development in Western Asia) of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005.

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the programme.

4. Concern was expressed on some formulations in the programme. It was observed that the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) was neither qualified nor authorized to pass negative judgements on member States. This needed to be revised to bring the narrative in line with the mandate of ESCWA.

5. It was stressed that there was no legislative agreement on the concept of good governance. As a result, no reference to this concept should have been included in the document.

6. It was stated that the indicators of achievement did not clearly reflect the priorities of the programme. They should have placed emphasis on the issues of water and energy. It was noted that the indicators of achievement appeared to focus

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more on measuring the performance of Member States than the performance of ESCWA.

Conclusions and recommendations

7. The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the approval of programme 18 (Economic and social development in Western Asia) of the proposed medium-term plan, subject to the following modifications:

(a) Paragraph 18.2:

(i) In the third sentence, replace the words "to foster the adoption and adaptation" with the words "to keep member countries informed";

(ii) In the third sentence, after the words "standards and trends", insert the words "with a view to their possible adoption and adaptation";

(b) Paragraph 18.3 (b):

Replace the words "Cultivating the interest of member States in the advantages of regional cooperation and coordination in developing concerted policies" with the words "Supporting all efforts and initiatives by member countries aiming at achieving more regional cooperation and coordination as well as cultivating their interest in developing concerted policies";

(c) Paragraph 18.11:

(i) In the second sentence, replace the words "social development" with the word "development";

(ii) In the third sentence, delete the words "as an early-warning system for the social sector, and";

(iii) In the same sentence, replace the words "development process" with the words "social development process";

(iv) In the fourth sentence, delete the word "acute" and the period after "problems", and replace the words "These result from" at the beginning of the fifth sentence with the words "such as";

(v) In the same sentence, delete the word "abject";

(vi) In the same sentence, replace the words "limited improvement in the status of women and their participation" with the words "limited participation of women";

(vii) Delete the two sentences beginning with the words "All these problems" and ending with the words "social development";

(viii) In the next sentence, delete the words "at the regional level";

(d) Paragraph 18.12:

(i) In the second sentence, after the words "civil society" add the words "at the regional level";

(ii) In the fifth sentence, replace the word "including" with the words "while emphasizing", and replace the words "while also emphasizing good

governance and human rights as a means of promoting sustainable human development" with the sentence "In addition, transparent and accountable governance, human rights, in particular the right to development, will be emphasized as means of promoting sustainable human development";

(iii) In the last sentence, delete the words "rights-based approach to";

(iv) In the same sentence, after the word "equality" add the words "-based approach" and after the words "in the region", replace the word "and" with the word "including";

(e) Paragraph 18.13 (a):

After the word "underscoring" add the word "national";

(f) Paragraph 18.13 (b):

After the words "civil society" add the words "at the regional level";

(g) Paragraph 18.13 (c):

After the words "machinery of" add the word "national";

(h) Paragraph 18.14 (a):

Delete the word "officially", and after the word "adopting" add the word "national";

(i) Paragraph 18.14 (b):

After the phrase "civil society" add the phrase "at the national level";

(j) Paragraph 18.14 (c):

After the word "using" add the word "national";

(k) Paragraph 18.16:

In the third sentence, replace the word "good " with the words "transparent and accountable";

(l) Paragraph 18.25:

(i) Replace the word "coordinate" with the word "promote", and after the word "statistics" add the words "at the national level and coordinate them at the regional level";

(ii) At the end of the paragraph, after the word "national" add the words "and regional";

(m) Paragraph 18.30 (d):

After the words "civil society institutions" add the words "at the regional level".